

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

**Claims pending**

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-22.
- After this Response: Claims 1-22.

**Claims Canceled or Withdrawn Herein:** None.

**Claims Cancelled Previously:** 23-31.

**Claims Amended Herein:** Claims 1, 12-13, 17-18, and 22.

**New claims:** None.

1. (Currently Amended) A distributed information processing system,  
comprising:

a client device interface adapted to receive requests for a type of electronic  
information from a plurality of remote devices;

a stateless module manager adapted to receive and route said requests from  
said client device interface; and

a plurality of information modules,

wherein said information modules register with said stateless module  
manager, and wherein the stateless module manager routes said requests to an  
appropriate one of said plurality of information modules in accordance with a the  
type of information requested, wherein the stateless module manager handles  
service collisions in which plural information modules are capable of responding  
to the requests, such that only one information module processes the requests,  
wherein the stateless module manager enables one of the information modules to  
claim the requests and to own the requests afterwards; and

wherein said client device interface is adapted to receive a plurality of  
request types, said request types comprising:

on-demand requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
a user of one of said remote devices when said user desires an on-demand  
response;

scheduled requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
said user when said user desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a  
subscription service provided by one of said information modules; and

event driven requests, which are sent to said client device interface  
from one of said remote devices when certain criteria are met.

1           2.     **(Original)**   The distributed information processing system as  
2 recited in claim 1, wherein the requests to the device interface are formatted as an  
3 HTML or plain-text formatted e-mail.

4  
5           3.     **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
6 system as recited in claim 1, wherein the appropriate one of said plurality of  
7 information modules generates a response that is returned to said stateless module  
8 manager, and wherein said stateless module manager routes said response to said  
9 client interface device for delivery to a requestor.

10  
11           4.     **(Original)**   The distributed information processing system as  
12 recited in claim 1, wherein said requests and responses are formatted as  
13 serializable Java objects.

14  
15           5.     **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
16 system as recited in claim 1, wherein said requests are made to said stateless  
17 module manager as one of a synchronous or asynchronous request, wherein  
18 synchronous requests are handled on a first-in-first-out basis, and wherein  
19 asynchronous requests are processed and returned when completed.

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21           6.     **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
22 system as recited in claim 1, wherein instances of said stateless module manager  
23 are created each time a new request is received and discarded after the request has  
24 been handled.

1           7.     **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
2 system as recited in claim 6, wherein instances of said stateless module manager  
3 are stateless and multi-threaded.

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5           8.     **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
6 system as recited in claim 1, wherein information modules are loaded locally and  
7 remotely, wherein local modules reside on a same physical device as said stateless  
8 module manager, and wherein remote modules are located on other devices.

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10          9.     **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
11 system as recited in claim 8, wherein communication between locally loaded  
12 modules and said stateless module manager is accomplished via memory calls,  
13 object inheritance or inter-process communication.

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15          10.    **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
16 system as recited in claim 8, wherein communication between remotely loaded  
17 modules and said stateless module manager is accomplished via TCP/IP sockets.

18  
19          11.    **(Previously Presented)**   The distributed information processing  
20 system as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscription service further comprises a  
21 subscriber database, wherein information is sent by said information modules, and  
22 said subscriber database is consulted to determine to which users of said remote  
23 devices the information should be forwarded.

1           12.   **(Currently Amended)**   A method of receiving and responding to  
2 requests for electronic information in a distributed information processing system,  
3 the method comprising:

4           receiving ~~a-requests~~ for ~~electronic~~ a type of information at a client device  
5 interface;

6           forwarding said requests to a stateless module manager;

7           consulting a registry of available information modules; and

8           forwarding said requests to an appropriate information module as  
9 determined in accordance with ~~a~~ the type of information requested;

10          handling service collisions if plural information modules are capable of  
11 responding to the requests, such that only one information module processes the  
12 requests, and enabling one of the information modules to claim the requests and to  
13 own the requests afterwards;

14          wherein said client device interface is adapted to receive a plurality of  
15 request types, said request types comprising:

16           on-demand requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
17 a user of one of said remote devices when said user desires an on-demand  
18 response;

19           scheduled requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
20 said user when said user desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a  
21 subscription service provided by one of said information modules; and

22           event driven requests, which are sent to said client device interface  
23 from one of said remote devices when certain criteria are met.  
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1           13.   **(Currently Amended)**   The method of claim 12, further  
2 comprising:

3           maintaining a list of supported services provided by each of said  
4 information modules; and

5           registering said information modules for responding to requests for said  
6 type of electronic information handling service collisions if plural information  
7 modules are capable of responding to said type of information such that only one  
8 information module processes said request.

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10          14.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 12, wherein said requests and  
11 responses are formatted as serializable Java objects.

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13          15.   **(Previously Presented)**   The method of claim 12, wherein said  
14 requests are made to said stateless module manager as one of a synchronous or  
15 asynchronous request, wherein synchronous requests are handled on a first-in-  
16 first-out basis, and wherein asynchronous requests are processed and returned  
17 when completed.

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19          16.   **(Previously Presented)**   The method of claim 12, said method  
20 further comprising:

21           creating an instance of said stateless module manager upon receiving said  
22 request; and

23           discarding said instance after said response has been handled.  
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1           17.   **(Currently Amended)**   A computer readable medium containing  
2 computer executable instructions for receiving and responding to requests for  
3 electronic information in a distributed information processing system, said  
4 computer executable instructions for performing the steps of:

5           receiving ~~a-requests~~ for a type of electronic information at a client device  
6 interface;

7           forwarding said requests to a stateless module manager;

8           consulting a registry of available information modules; ~~and~~

9           forwarding said requests to an appropriate information module as  
10 determined in accordance with ~~a~~ the type of electronic information requested;

11           handling service collisions if plural information modules are capable of  
12 responding to the requests, such that only one information module processes the  
13 requests, and enabling one of the information modules to claim the requests and to  
14 own the requests afterwards;

15           wherein said client device interface is adapted to receive a plurality of  
16 request types, said request types comprising:

17           on-demand requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
18 a user of one of said remote devices when said user desires an on-demand  
19 response;

20           scheduled requests, which are sent to said client device interface by  
21 said user when said user desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a  
22 subscription service provided by one of said information modules; and

23           event driven requests, which are sent to said client device interface  
24 from one of said remote devices when certain criteria are met.  
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1           18.    **(Currently Amended)**    The computer readable medium of claim  
2 17, further comprising computer executable instructions for performing the steps  
3 of:

4           maintaining a list of supported services provided by each of said  
5 information modules; and

6           ~~handling service collisions if plural information modules are capable of~~  
7 ~~responding to said type of information such that only one information module~~  
8 ~~processes said request.~~

9  
10           19.    **(Previously Presented)**    The computer readable medium of claim  
11 17, wherein said requests and responses are formatted as serializable Java objects.

12  
13           20.    **(Previously Presented)**    The computer readable medium of claim  
14 17, wherein said requests are made to said stateless module manager as one of a  
15 synchronous or asynchronous request, wherein synchronous requests are handled  
16 on a first-in-first-out basis, and wherein asynchronous requests are processed and  
17 returned when completed.

18  
19           21.    **(Previously Presented)**    The computer readable medium of claim  
20 17, further comprising executable instructions for performing the steps of:

21           creating an instance of said stateless module manager upon receiving said  
22 request; and

23           discarding said instance after said response has been handled.  
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1           22.   **(Currently Amended)**   A stateless module manager that  
2 manages ~~a-requests~~ for electronic information received at a mailbox, comprising:

3           a registry of information modules;

4           a module loading function for dynamically loading said information  
5 modules upon receipt of said request for electronic information, wherein said  
6 requests ~~is~~ are made as one of a serializable Java object, XML placed in an HTTP  
7 header, or an XML-RPC-enabled web server, wherein said requests ~~is~~ are either  
8 synchronous or asynchronous, wherein ~~a-synchronous requests~~ ~~is~~ are handled on a  
9 first-in-first-out basis, and wherein ~~an-asynchronous requests~~ ~~is~~ are processed and  
10 ~~a-responses~~ returned in accordance with ~~a-processing times~~ of the requests;

11           wherein said stateless module manager routes said requests to an  
12 appropriate information module for resolution, and wherein said appropriate  
13 information module resolves said requests and returns ~~a-responses~~ to said stateless  
14 module manager;

15           wherein said stateless module manager maintains a list of supported  
16 services provided by each of said information modules and handles service  
17 collisions, such that if plural information modules register as supporting a same  
18 service related to requests, by the stateless module manager determining  
19 determines which one of said plural information modules will to handle said  
20 requests by enabling the one information module to claim the requests and to own  
21 the requests afterwards;

22           wherein instances of said stateless module manger are created each time a  
23 new request is received and discarded after the request has been handled;

24           wherein said stateless module loading function includes local and remote  
25 module loading functions, wherein said local loading function loads information

1 modules that reside on a same physical device as said stateless module manager,  
2 wherein said remote loading function loads information modules that reside on  
3 devices logically connected to said stateless module manager, wherein said local  
4 modules communicate with said stateless module manager via one of memory  
5 calls, object inheritance, and inter-process communication, and wherein said  
6 remote information modules communicate with said stateless module manager via  
7 TCP/IP sockets; and

8 further comprising a user interface, wherein said user interface is adapted to  
9 configure said stateless module manager; and

10 wherein said stateless module manager is adapted to receive a plurality of  
11 request types, said request types comprising:

12 on-demand requests, which are sent by a user of one of said remote  
13 devices when said user desires an on-demand response;

14 scheduled requests, which are sent by said user when said user  
15 desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a subscription service  
16 provided by one of said information modules; and

17 event driven requests, which are sent from one of said remote  
18 devices when certain criteria are met.

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20 23-31. (Cancelled).  
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